

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-13 and 18-24 are pending in the present application.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to, and Claims 7-13 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Alcorn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,988,138, hereinafter "Alcorn").

With respect to the specification, the last paragraph of the substitute specification is not incomplete. The last word "claims" appears on page 23 of the substitute specification.

Furthermore, the previously filed substitute specification is amended to include the paragraph that was previously submitted but not entered. The present amendments to the substitute specification add the new paragraph in a suitable location.

Accordingly, any objection to the specification should be overcome.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 7 as anticipated by Alcorn, Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection. Claim 7 recites, inter alia, "providing unregistered attendees authority to view predetermined portions of the virtual events." Alcorn does not disclose or suggest this element of Claim 7.

Alcorn describes an environment where classes are taught over the internet in a virtual classroom. According to Alcorn, students need to be registered users to access a virtual event. As shown in Figure 5 of Alcorn, a web page states "Welcome Daniel." This type of personal greeting indicates that the user (Daniel) has previously registered with the system.

Furthermore, Alcorn describes an access control manager that creates an access control list for one or more subsystems. This allows different types of users to effectively

interact with the system while preserving confidentiality of information.¹ This suggests that users of the system in Alcorn have previously registered with the system.

Moreover, Alcorn describes that end-user authentication enables a single login environment for the institution portal for all students, instructors, administrators, and staff, which streamlines all campus services into a single web portal environment.² Thus, Alcorn requires registration to use and access a virtual event.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Office appears to take the position that guest speakers and subject matter experts that may participate in an online classroom discussion are unregistered attendees. Applicants respectfully traverse this position. Column 19, lines 25-28 of Alcorn, which the Office Action relies upon, does not state that the guest speakers and subject matter experts are unregistered. On the contrary, Alcorn describes user management area 2416, which allows creation of a user entry by entering personal information such as name, address, etc., and a user name and password. A role of the user is set at this time, which may be a student, faculty, staff, alumni, guest, etc. Thus, even guests are registered.

Furthermore, the bottom of column 21 of Alcorn describes user management, which describes how an instructor is able to enroll students, which equates to the instructor registering the students for the online course.

Thus, Alcorn does not disclose or suggest the claimed “providing unregistered attendees authority to view predetermined portions of the virtual events.”

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 7 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Alcorn. Claim 18 recites elements analogous to those of Claim 7. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 18 patentably distinguishes over Alcorn for at least the reasons stated for Claim 7.

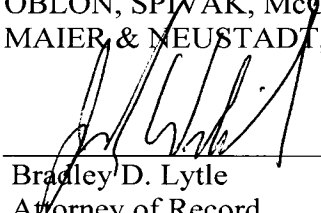
¹ Alcorn, column 9 at lines 37-45.

² Alcorn, at column 13 at lines 29-32.

Accordingly, in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Joseph Wrkich
Registration No. 53,796

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